

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are presently pending in the application. Claims 8 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings stating that "hook portions positioned at both ends of the bent portions" are not shown.

The Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that she has misinterpreted the drawings. Figs. 1 and 2 show the main-portion end wire 3 with bent portions 3b and hook portions 3a positioned at both ends of the bent portions 3b. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 7, and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being unpatentable over Lhuissier et al. (USP 5,641,204) in view of Maruyama (USP 4,718,718). The Examiner has rejected Claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lhuissier et al. in view of Maruyama. Finally, the Examiner has rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lhuissier et al. in view of Maruyama, and further in view of Mundell et al. (USP 4,337,931).

However, the Examiner has found Claim 8 (and Claim 14, which is an error, since Claim 14 depends from Claim 1 which is not allowable) allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 13 (which is Claim 8 rewritten into independent form) has been allowed by the Examiner, and thus, allowable Claim 8, along with Claim 15, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

For the following reasons, the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that neither Lhuissier et al. nor Maruyama teaches or suggests a seat including a pad assembly having a main portion and side portions, the main portion interposed between the side portions, the side portions including boundary-portion pulling slots wherein boundary-portion insert wires having hook ends are disposed along bottom portions of said boundary-portion pulling slots, and the main portion including a main-portion pulling slot disposed substantially perpendicular to the boundary-portion pulling slots; a cover assembly covering a surface of the pad assembly, the cover assembly including boundary-portion pulling bags pulled into the boundary-portion pulling slots respectively and a main-portion pulling bag pulled into the main-portion pulling slot, wherein boundary-portion end wires having exposed hook ends are inserted into said boundary-portion pulling bags and fixed to said boundary-portion insert wires respectively; and a main-portion end wire inserted into the main-portion pulling bag, the main-portion end wire having a straight line portion and bent portions positioned at both ends of the straight line portions, and exposed hook portions positioned at both ends of the bent portions, the main-portion end wire being placed into the main-portion pulling slot with the exposed hook ends of said bent opposite end portions linked with the boundary-portion end wires respectively, as recited in amended Claim 1, and as substantially recited in amended Claim 10.

Rather, the Applicants respectfully submit that Lhuissier et al., on whom the Examiner relies, only discloses a fixing strip 26 having an inextensible cord 30 sewn along its free edge. There are no boundary-portion insert wires having hook ends in the fixing strip 26, in any embodiment of Lhuissier et al.

Accordingly, there can be no pad assembly having boundary-portion insert wires having hook ends, nor cover assembly having boundary-portion end wires having exposed hook ends inserted into the boundary-portion pulling bags and fixed to the boundary-portion insert wires respectively; nor a main-portion end wire having exposed hook portions positioned at both ends of its bent portions, the main-portion end wire being placed into the main-portion pulling slot with the exposed hook ends of the bent opposite end portions linked with boundary-portion end wires, respectively.

Further, it is not obvious to provide such a structure, as the invention in Lhuissier et al. is directed to providing a flexible material for the strip 26, which is reinforced by an inextensible flat, textile cord or braid 30 which is sewn along the free edge by stitches 31 and which extends without any folds or kinks along the edge. In Lhuissier et al., the return force exerted by clips 29 are distributed by the cord 30, thereby enabling the strip 26 to withstand this force without being damaged, while nevertheless avoiding stiffness which would impede installation of the cover (see col. 4, lines 15-25).

However, this fixing strip 26 and cord 30 are susceptible to tearing, which would be difficult to fix and make the seat dangerous to use.

However, in the present invention, the boundary portion insert wires 6 of the pad assembly 2 have hook ends (unlabeled – see Fig. 3) which hook to hook ends of the boundary portion insert wires 4 of the cover assembly 1 (unlabeled – see Figs. 1 and 3), to increase the strength of the seat.

Further, additional strength is provided by the cover assembly 1 main-portion end wires 3 with exposed hook portions 3a at its bent opposite end portions 3b, which are linked to the boundary-portion end wires 4.

In addition, the feature of the fixing hole 28 in Lhuissier et al. is required in order to fix a cover assembly to a pad assembly.

However, in the present invention, a main portion of a cover assembly is pressed to a pad assembly due to a bending reaction force generated in the bent portion of a main portion end wire (see page 12, lines 17-25 of the present specification). Therefore, the present invention does not require elements such as hog rings in order to fix a main portion end wire to a pad assembly.

Neither Maruyama nor Mundell et al., makes up for the deficiencies in Lhuissier et al.

Accordingly, the present invention is not obvious over either the individual nor the combination of the Lhuissier et al., Maruyama, and Mundell et al. references, and the rejection of Claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

Further, since Claims 2-7, 9, and 14 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 11-12 depend from Claim 10, they are also patentably distinguishable over either the individual or the combination of the Lhuissier et al., Maruyama, and Mundell et al. references, for the reasons cited above with respect to Claims 1 and 10.

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to

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maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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